



Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly
Assessment Newsletter
August 2004

Welcome Back!



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2004- 2005 Statewide Testing Windows

Test	Window	Grades	Subjects	Students	Contact
English Language Proficiency Field Test	September 20-29, 2004	1-12	English Language Proficiency	A sample of Montana students	Lynn Hinch lhinch@state.mt.us 406-444-3482
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)	January 24 - March 4, 2005	4, 8, 12	Reading, math, and science	A sample of Montana students	Lindy Miller lindmiller@state.mt.us 406-444-6774
MontCAS, Phase 2: Criterion-Referenced Test Alternate	February 14 - March 30, 2005	4, 8, 10 students with significant cognitive disabilities	Reading and math	All accredited school students with significant cognitive disabilities	Bob Runkel brunkel@state.mt.us 406-444-4429 Marilyn Pearson mpearson@state.mt.us 406-444-4428 Judy Snow jsnow@state.mt.us 406-444-3656
MontCAS, Phase 2: Criterion-Referenced Test	March 7 - March 30, 2005	4, 8, 10	Reading and math	All accredited school students without significant cognitive disabilities	Judy Snow jsnow@state.mt.us 406-444-3656
MontCAS, Phase 1: Norm-Referenced Test (the Iowa Tests) and Alternate	March 23 - April 13, 2005	4, 8, 11	Reading, language arts, math, social studies, science	All accredited school students	Judy Snow jsnow@state.mt.us 406-444-3656

Assessment for Learning

Test Coordinator Update

In October 2004, as part of the Annual Data Collection, your district will be asked to update your test coordinator information. Test coordinators receive all notifications of testing procedures and training as well as testing materials. They are your liaison with the testing contractors and the Office of Public Instruction. As we continue the Iowa Tests and the CRT, it is extremely important to your school and district that the Office of Public Instruction has correct and up-to-date contact information for your district's test coordinator.

Statewide Test Results

In the spring of 2004, districts, schools, and students received the results of the 2004 Iowa Tests. In July of 2004, districts and schools reviewed their disaggregated Iowa Test results that will be published on the

OPI web site in September 2004. The Iowa Tests are norm-referenced tests, and the results are computed to compare student achievement with a national norm group. In addition, the Iowa Tests test basic skills.

In September 2004, districts will receive the results of the first statewide Montana Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT). In June and July, districts and schools reviewed and made corrections to their demographic data that they coded on the student response booklets at the time of testing. The Montana CRT compares student achievement to Montana content standards. The Montana CRT is aligned to Montana content standards which include basic skills and process and application skills.

The tests offer different pictures of student achievement. Proficiency levels are by test and are not interchangeable.

MontCAS Phase 1, The Iowa Tests

Iowa Test Results

Preliminary aggregated results for the 2004 Iowa Tests are online in a document presented at the July meeting of the Board of Public Education <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/04PrelimStwideAggre.pdf>.

Disaggregated results will be online after the September Board of Public Education meeting <http://data.opi.state.mt.us/irisreports/>.

Individual district, school, and student test results were shipped by Riverside Publishing Company to districts in May 2004. Accompanying those test results was a 2004 Iowa Tests Interpretive Guide. It is available online <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/04InterpGuide.pdf>

Schools and districts reviewed their Iowa Test data online July 15 - 26.

MontCAS Phase 2, The Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)

Standard Setting for the Criterion-Referenced Test and CRT-Alternate

Many thanks to the educators who convened in Helena in late June to set cut scores for the CRT and the CRT-Alternate. Standard setting was the first step in the process of determining the cut scores for the performance levels between novice and nearing proficiency, nearing proficiency and proficient, and proficient and advanced on the CRT and the CRT-Alternate. The standard setting methods used were the Modified Bookmark for the CRT and the Modified Body of Work for the CRT-Alternate. Educators worked with test items, statistics and Montana content standards.

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Both the CRT and the CRT-Alternate groups displayed professionalism and dedication. We thank them for their time and commitment.

Montana educators take a break from the rigorous standard setting process



File Format for Electronic CRT Data

For schools and districts using a data warehouse system, the file format for the Criterion-Referenced Test data is available. Please email Judy Snow at jsnow@state.mt.us, and the format in Excel will be sent in the reply.

Criterion-Referenced Test Results

Districts will receive district, school, and student Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT) results in the mail by September 29. Paper and electronic results will be included in the shipment. I-Analyze, a software program with tools for disaggregating data at the school and district level, will be provided at no charge.

Reports will be shipped to each district separately by grade starting with grade 4. By September 29, districts should receive results for all grades tested.

Samples of the reports for the CRT and the CRT-Alternate are online <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/crt.html>. In addition, the Office of Public Instruction will present sessions on interpreting and using the reports. The fall 2004 calendar follows:

October 4 9am - 1pm	"Reading the Reports," an interactive preview of CRT printed reports—for test coordinators	METNET Sites Registration will open on September 10 opi.state.mt.us/regforms/fall04/
After October 5	"Reading the Reports," a preview of CRT printed reports—for test coordinators	Video Stream on OPI site More information in the September <i>JUMP</i>
Oct. 21-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Instructional use of CRT data and item release. •CRT-Alternate assessment data and use. •The Benchmarking Process for the CRT •Demonstration and hands-on training of I-Analyze, electronic CRT data software—Exhibit Hall 	MEA-MFT Conference in Helena—See conference catalog for details
Oct. 21-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Demonstration and hands-on training of I-Analyze, electronic CRT data software—Exhibit Hall 	MCEL Conference in Billings

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Site Information for “Reading the Reports,” METNET/VisionNet Video Conference, October 4, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

- Online registration will open on September 10—opi.state.mt.us/regforms/fall04/.
- If you have a VisionNet site in your school or community and would like a broadcast there, please contact Judy Snow, 406-444-3656, jsnow@state.mt.us to make arrangements.

City	Site	Address	Parking	Seating Capacity
Billings	MSU—Billings	214 N. Broadway NOTE: This site is downtown--not on campus.	Use downtown parking garages. The site will validate.	30
Bozeman	MSU, EPS Building, Burns Center, Room 126	So. 7th and Grant	Pay lot across the street at the corner of S. 7th and Grant	30
Butte	Montana Tech, ELCB, Room 231	1300 West Park Street	Visitor and decal parking are available near the site. If you can't find a visitor spot, park in a decal one. If you get a ticket, call the site coordinator, Cookie Sheehan, 406-496-4242.	36
Dillon	UM—Western, Library, Montana Room, 2nd Floor	710 South Atlantic	Free parking on site	35
Glendive	Glendive Medical Center	202 Prospect Drive	Free parking on site	50
Glasgow	Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital	621 3rd St South	Free parking on site	30
Great Falls	MSU—Great Falls Room B-133	2100 16th Ave. South	Free parking on site	24
Havre	MSU—Northern Hagner Science Center, Room 202	300 11th St West	Free parking at site except when marked as reserved	18
Helena	Department of Public Health and Human Services	111 Sanders Street	Free parking at site in lot behind building.	16
Kalispell	Byte Savvy Conference Room	309 South Main (downtown Kalispell)	Free two-hour on-street parking. Pay lot across street.	10
Libby	Libby School District Central Office, Board Room	724 Louisiana Ave (across from McDonald's)	Free parking on site	20
Malta	Malta High School	S. 9th Street West	Free parking on site	18
Miles City	Miles Community College	2715 Dickenson Street, Room 106	Free parking on site	40

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Missoula	University of Montana, Gallagher Building, Room 104	Corner of Arthur and Eddy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited space at the pay lot in front of the Gallagher Bldg. on the side facing Arthur. • Parking permits are available at U of M for \$2 through the campus security. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o They can be purchased in advance by contacting Shelley Harshbarger at 406-243-6131. o Or they can be purchased at the Security Office the day of the conference. The Security Office is directly behind the football stadium. There are Quick Stops in front to park in while getting permit. 	30
Pablo	Salish Kootenai Tribal College, Building #50, the Distance Education Building	Highway 93	Free parking on site	20
Sidney	Sidney Health Center	216 14th Avenue SW	Free parking on site	40

News About the CRT-Alternate

October Revision and Development Workshops

The response to participate in the revision and development of the CRT-Alternate in October has been enthusiastic. We have a few openings especially for teachers who administered the CRT-Alternate in the Spring of 2004.

Information and the application form are online: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/CRTAltDWkspInvite.pdf> and <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/CRTAltDWkshpApp.pdf>

Attention Teachers Who Administered the CRT-Alternate

To assist us with the revision and development workshops in October, we need your advice about the CRT-Alternate. Could you help us by completing a survey? The window for the survey is September 10-28.

The survey will be placed online by **September 10**—opi.state.mt.us/regforms/CRTAsurvey/. In addition, OPI will mail a copy of the survey to you by **September 10**. You may complete and submit the survey online or on paper. If you complete it on paper, please fax or mail it to Gail McGregor, (406) 243-2349, or Gail McGregor, University of Montana, 52 Corbin Hall, Missoula, MT 59812.

Because we need your comments before the CRT-Alternate revision and development meetings in October, please submit your survey by **September 28**. Thank you.

Online Registration for Students Participating in the Spring 2005 CRT-Alternate

Measured Progress has created an online registration system for students participating in the CRT-Alternate in the spring of 2005. This system is for any student in grades 4, 8, and 10 who has met the eligibility requirements as determined by his/her IEP team.

For participation in the Spring 2005 CRT-Alternate, these students must be registered online: October 4, 2004 through October 22, 2004. In September, System Test Coordinators will receive a memo, access code, instructions, and a data collection sheet listing all the information that will be collected online.

If there are no students in your district participating in the CRT-Alt this year, you must still access the Measured Progress website in order to verify this information for us.

In January, Measured Progress will reopen the online registration for students who enroll after the October registration window.

Participation of Students with Disabilities in Statewide Testing

Part of the IEP decision-making process is the determination of how a student will participate in statewide testing. Phase 1, the norm-referenced test (NRT—the Iowa Tests) and Phase 2, the criterion-referenced test (CRT) each have specific alternate assessments and eligibility criteria.

The Alternate Assessment Scale is the alternate for the Iowa Tests. For guidelines and accommodations, please see the 2004 Test Coordinators Guide online <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/training/04IowaTestCoordGuide.pdf>

The Alternate Assessment Scales for grades 4, 8, and 11, and the Alternate Assessment Handbook are online to assist you in your decision. <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/nrt.html>

The CRT-Alternate is the alternate for the criterion-referenced test and is designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Only those students, determined by the IEP team to have a significant cognitive disability in accord with state guidelines, are eligible to participate in the CRT-Alternate. Information about the CRT, accommodations, and guidelines for determining a student's eligibility to participate in the CRT-Alternate are available on the OPI website at: www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/SpecED/CRTAltAssess.pdf

General guidelines are also available online in the CRT-Alternate Administration Manual <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/training/CRTAltAdminManual.pdf>. More detailed guidelines are also online: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/SpecED/Guides.html#CRT>

The Division of Special Education has a newly revised IEP form to assist IEP teams in addressing the requirements for students with disabilities' participation in statewide and district wide testing. A copy of this form is available online <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/SpecED/forms/IEPFormRev.pdf>

Other Assessment News

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Between January 24 and March 5, 2005 Montana will participate in NAEP assessments in grades 4, 8, and 12 in reading, mathematics and science. Students are asked to participate in only one subject.

Selected schools will be notified in September 2004. Each school will need to identify a contact person to supply an electronic list of students and assist with some logistics. NAEP field staff will conduct the assessment and provide materials.

Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, states receiving Title I funds must participate in the NAEP Assessment in grades 4 & 8 in reading and mathematics.

Important dates and information

- Electronic filing of student lists due by November 10, 2004
- Testing window January 24 - March 4, 2005
- Multiple-choice and constructed-response items
- Students use paper and pencil, manipulatives, calculators and science kits provided by NAEP
- Administered by NAEP Field Staff in a single testing session (90 minutes)
- Designed to provide state and national results

For more information, visit the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard> or contact Lindy Miller, Office of Public Instruction, at 406-444-6774 or lindmiller@state.mt.us.

Schools To Participate in English Language Proficiency Field Test

In September 2004, Montana educators and students will take part in the field test of the assessment designed to measure the progress of limited-English-proficient (LEP) students. The assessment is being developed by the Mountain West Consortium in which numerous Montana educators have participated in item writing, bias review, and pilot tests.

Approximately 500 Montana students will participate in the field test September 20-29. Schools that submitted participation forms in the spring will receive the field test materials the week of **September 6**.

The field test is the next phase in the development of a reliable assessment of the English language proficiency of LEP students, and bring Montana into compliance with No Child Left Behind.